

Message Text

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46/50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

SY-05 OMB-01 EB-07 SR-02 ORM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 FDRE-00 /080 W

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O 081230Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 219

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6066

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: APRIL 8, THE 98TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 6045

1. SUMMARY. THE KC CRUMBLLED TERRITORIAL DEFENSES AS THEY PENETRATED DOWN TO THE MEKONG ON THE EAST BANK OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH. KOMPONG SPEU DEFENDERS ARE STILL FIGHTING ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE MARKET AND THE KC HAVE ENCIRCLED A NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AT KOMPONG SPEU. IN NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA THE KC HAVE CUT ROUTE 6 WEST OF SIEM REAP AND ROUTE 5 BETWEEN SISOPHON AND THE THAI BORDER. FOURTEEN ROCKETS AND TEN 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS HIT THE AIRPORT KILLING ONE PERSON, WOUNDING ANOTHER AND DAMAGING A C-123. THREE ROCKETS EXPLODED I THE CAPITAL WITH NO DAMAGE REPORTED. LATE THIS AFTERNOON, SIX OR SEVEN 75MM RE-COILLESS RIFLE ROUNDS IMPACTED ON FANK ARTILLERY AT THE
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NAVAL BASE AND WATER WORKS AT CHRUYOY CHANGWAR, AND INTO

NORTHEASTERN PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY.

2. FANK'S PARA BRIGADE HAS BEEN FIGHTING HEAVILY SINCE TWO THIS MORNING BUT HAS FAILED TO KEEP THE KC FROM OPENING A CORRIDOR DOWN TO THE MEKONG OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH. TERRITORIAL TROOPS GAVE WAY BEFORE THE DETERMINED KC ATTACK WHICH HAS REQUIRED ALL PARA RESERVES TO CONTAIN. THE PARATROOP COMMANDER CLAIMS TO HAVE KILLED MANY KC.

3. ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAIN CHARACTERIZED THE NIGHT'S ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. THE 45TH BRIGADE RETOOK ONE POSITION THEY HAD ABANDONED THE NIGHT BEFORE LAS. ANOTHER 70 MEN FROM THE 45TH ARRIVED FROM PHNOM BASETH TO THE BRIGADE'S POSITION SOUTH OF THE NORTHERN DIKE. THEY BROUGHT A NUMBER OF BADLY NEEDED MORTARS. SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, THE THIRD DIVISION'S OPERATION TO WITHDRAW ITS WESTERNMOST BATTALION WAS SUCCESSFUL YESTERDAY. A RELIEF FORCE LINKED UP WITH THE POSITION AND THEN ALL FORCES EVACUATED TO MORE EASTERLY DEFENSIVE LINES. AN UNEXPECTED BONUS OF THE OPERATION RESULTED FROM KC EFFORTS TO TRAP THE RELIEF FORCE. A FAC CALLED IN ARTILLERY ON THE KC FORCE WHICH WAS TRYING TO COME IN BEHIND THE RELIEF FORCE AND THE THIRD DIVISION REPORTED 200 KC KILLED NEAR WAT ANG.

4. FIGHTING IS STILL UNDERWAY AT KOMPONG SPEU, WHERE THE KC HAVE ENCIRCLED A 2,700-MAN (1,700 RECRUITS AND 1,000 ADMIN AND GUARDS) NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER. THE KC ALSO STILL CONTROL A LARGE REFUGEE CAMP WHICH ELEMENTS OF TWO FANK BATTALIONS ARE COUNTERATTACKING. ATTACKS CONTINUE ON THE EAST EDGE OF THE TOWN AS WELL. AMMUNITION AND RICE AIRDROPS YESTERDAY APPARENTLY HEARTENED THE DEFENDERS.

5. PREY VENG FORCES KILLED 50 KC AND TOOK SIX PRISONERS YESTERDAY BUT HAVE NOT YET RETAKEN THE LOST POSITIONS ON THE TOWN'S OUTER DEFENSIVE SHELL. IN NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA, THE KC HAVE CUT ROUTE 6 WEST OF SIEM REAP AND ROUTE 5 BETWEEN SISOPHON AND THE THAI BORDER.

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6. TEN ROUNDS OF 105MM HOWITZER FIRE AND 14 ROCKETS KILLED ONE PERSON, WOUNDED ANOTHER AND CAUSED UNSPECIFIED DAMAGE TO A C-123 AT POCHENTONG, THREE ROCKETS LANDED IN PHNOM PENH WITH RESULTS NOT YET REPORTED. THE KC ALSO FIRED SIX OR SEVEN 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUNDS INTO NORTHEASTERN PHNOM PENH AND THE CHROUY CHANGWAR PENINSULA.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: FDRC TAKE AS ORIGINAL

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